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MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1912.

The Law in the Case of Mexico.

The situation regarding Mexico has now reached an acute stage. The proclamation of President Taft practically recognizing a state of belligerency in that country and warning all American citizens to preserve strict neutrality, while at the same time citizens of the United States who may be in Mexico have been officially advised to leave, indicates that, in the view of the administration, our sister republic is entering upon a long siege of civil war.

It is better, of course, that the President should act in this manner than that there should be hasty and aggressive action toward Mexico. There is no necessity as yet for intervention. We are not bound by international law or by any other authority to invade a friendly territory simply because some American citizens may be in peril. This position was plainly laid down in the case of Robert J. Crow more than fifty years ago, when it was stated:

"A citizen of a neutral nation, residing in a country between which and another war breaks out, may exempt himself from the liabilities of a hostile character by taking early steps to remove from the belligerent territory. If no such steps be taken, he owes temporary allegiance to its government, and both himself and his property are to be regarded as out of the protection of the government to which his original and permanent allegiance was due."

If, therefore, American citizens continue to reside in Mexico after the warning which has been given, they do so at their own risk. It is true, as stated by another authority, that when they so remain they are still "entitled to receive all just protection against positive maltreatment and violation of right and justice by the government under whose jurisdiction they continue to reside," but they must take the chances as to the extent of this protection.

All friends of Mexico, and they are legion in this country, sincerely regret the unfortunate condition which has arisen, but they will agree with the President in refraining from any act which bears upon its face the evidence of armed hostility to the existing government.

The Free Sugar Proposition.

The scheme proposed by the Democratic majority in the House is ingenious, to say the least. Placing sugar on the free list means a reduction of \$55,000,000 in revenue, an amount which it is proposed to recover through an additional excise or tax upon incomes exceeding \$5,000 per annum. The tax upon corporations is also broadened so as to swell the Treasury receipts.

If enacted into law the result would be a cheapening of one of the necessities of life and an additional burden upon those able to afford it. There can be no doubt, therefore, of the popularity of the scheme. From the present outlook, however, there is little more in it than campaign buncombe. It is not likely to pass the Senate, and thus the Democrats will get credit for an effort in the direction of lowering the cost of living without having to assume the responsibility of legislation.

Not only would the free importation of sugar seriously affect the Louisiana sugar cane growers and the beet sugar interests in the Northwest, but it would be a severe blow to the development of Porto Rico, where large plantations are being developed by Americans because the sugar from that country enters the United States duty free and thus has an advantage over the product of Cuba. It is hardly necessary, however, for these Porto Rican planters to be disturbed over the immediate passage of the proposed law. The price of sugar will not in the near future be reduced because the tariff upon it has been taken off by Congress.

Is Cheap Living Impossible?

From many sources come evidences of a growing pessimism regarding any permanent improvement in the cost of living. Students of economic problems, business men who handle the nation's food supplies and railroad men who transport them from the points of production to market are practically agreed that those engaged in feeding the nation have more customers than they can supply, and that there is no immediate remedy in sight.

President Brown, of the New York Central Railroad, recently gave expression to the view that under present conditions of underemployment in the markets of the country, the obvious remedy

is a slow and intelligent movement of the population of cities back to the farms. He declared there is enough unoccupied land in the United States, or enough indifferently cultivated, to raise more food products than the people of the nation could consume.

President Brown advocates a simple readjustment of the industrial forces of the country, so that a needed portion of workers shall go back from city to country, till the soil with intelligence and profit, and solve the problem of the high cost of living. President Brown does not leave his theory in the air by merely stating it as a working hypothesis. He proposes the organization of a movement by men acquainted with the agricultural possibilities of the country as a whole and of small portions of it as well. This organization shall shoulder the task of finding suitable families in the crowded cities and in the industrial districts and transplanting them to the country to raise food for themselves and others.

President Brown warns against too sudden a movement of this kind, which he declares would defeat its purpose. He would choose the future farmers with care, and establish them one by one or in very small groups upon abandoned farms or unoccupied land, where they could work out the problem of a change of life and industry without the fear of failure.

President Brown sees no hope for the nation's future peace and contentment except in this better equalization of industrial forces.

Wrapping of Bread.

Wrapping bread in a suitable paper or cardboard cover is a reform which in the interests of cleanliness and the public health may soon be demanded by legal authority. The question has been agitated in the District, and both the health officer and the scales of weights and measures are in favor of the innovation.

As handled at present, bread is thrown into specially constructed wagons, covered and closed, in bulk or many loaves together. At the point of distribution at the retail places it is placed in boxes outside in the early morning and carried inside in baskets during business hours. The loaves are piled upon the counter or dumped into a drawer by the grocery man who sells them. Finally the loaf is brought out and sold to the consumer with a very poor imitation of wrapping on the last stage of its journey to the table.

Along this route from the baker's oven to the table of the consumer there is large opportunity for the accumulation of dust on the loaf and of contamination by the handling of several persons. Generally the bread is taken to the kitchen and served without any cleaning process or heating to rid it of possible germs.

It is needless to say that this process of the distribution of bread is not surrounded with sufficient safeguards to protect the public health. The difficulty would be met by wrapping the loaf before it leaves the bakery, thus insuring its complete protection while passing through the period of distribution. The cost of the wrapping is a detail to be reckoned with, but it is hardly possible that the expense would be such as to materially increase the ultimate cost of the production of bread.

It is almost a wonder that the manifold advantages of the wrapped loaf of bread have not appealed with sufficient force to enterprising bakers to have been introduced long ago in the interests of trade competition.

Protect Federal Archives.

Two important things were impressed upon the attention of Congress at a recent hearing before the Senate Committee on Buildings and Grounds, while the question of erecting a hall of records was under consideration. One was that these archives, consisting of valuable records, manuscripts, and documents which constitute the history of the government, are now stored in places where they are in danger of destruction by fire or disappearance through theft.

Another thing impressed upon the committee was that the scholars of the country place great value upon the preservation of these records, if statements and politicians do not. At the hearing were men from a great number of the historical societies and associations of the country urging that suitable steps be taken by Congress to preserve the government records before they are irretrievably lost through carelessness of employees or the burning of one of the buildings where they are now placed.

That the government needs a suitable building in which to preserve the growing volume of its records has been reiterated in official reports and the comments of the press until it has become tiresome; but it is not often that the masters of learning and some of the greatest scholars of the age come to Washington to remind Congress of so simple and obvious a thing as to take care of its records.

Tough on Charleston.

From the Houston Post.
A \$50,000 fine in Charleston would kill two-thirds of the bedbugs and rats in the United States.

From the Birmingham News.
A Tallapoosa County candidate puts his campaign announcement into poetry. It will take a microscope to discover the remains of his bouquet after an outraged citizenry has had a chance at it.

From the Savannah News.
For a long race, the Camorrista verdict and the Lorimer verdict seem to be running neck and neck.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

COLD STORAGE ROMANCE.
Once a dandelion yept Miss On a farm.
Weed her name upon an egg.
Meant no harm.
"Maybe 'twill be seen," quoth she.
"Far away."
Some nice man may write to me
Any day.

Four years later, to a dot.
Came a screw;
And its tone was rather hot.
Warm, indeed.
It was from an actor's fan.
By the way.
Seems that egg had landed in
His old eye.

Uncle Penruise Says:
"Some babies yell unless permitted to have their own way, and some yell anyhow."

A Paxitive Hit.
"Lend me a pencil," said the press humorist.
"Thought of something funny."
"No; but I've thought of something that will pass muster as a joke."

March 4 in History.
March 4, 1908—William Howard Taft inaugurated President of the United States.
March 4, 1853—Boswell, Johnson, Pope, and David Garrick play bridge together. Too much genius present; the game breaks up in a row.

Nothing Wrong.
"Why do you mutter continually to yourself, old man? Hadn't you better see a doctor?"
"It's all right. I'm not dippy. I'm learning a part in my lodge."

Another Divorce.
She stood at the bag of justice
And made her appeal.
She asked, poor dove,
The custody of
The pug and the automobile.

Crossing the Pond.
"I'm afraid we might run into an iceberg."
"The danger is very slight, auntie."
"Well, give the captain a dollar, anyhow, and then he'll be extra careful."

Get in Line.
"Why don't you go in for woman's suffrage?"
"I'm not sure that we women need it."
"But, my dear madam, don't you know that some very fashionable people are taking it up?"

In the Spring.
"You don't seem to care for history, or poetry, or romance."
"Can't say I care for any of those."
"What do you like to read?"
"Chicken literature."

PRAISED BY BRYAN.

Roosevelt's Speech Receives Democratic Leader's Commendation.
From the Cincinnati Enquirer.
Ex-President Roosevelt's Columbus speech will stand out as the strongest he has yet delivered.
The country is to be congratulated upon the delivery of the speech.

LION OR THE LAMB.

From the Florida Times-Union.
The March wind will reckon with the straw hat.
From the Raleigh News and Observer.
The ground hog has certainly given proof that it is not a member of the Ananias Club.

From the Rochester Union and Advertiser.
Maybe March is going to come in like a lamb after all.

From the Memphis News-Scimitar.
This is the season of the year when the work of swatting the house fly should begin in earnest.

From the Omaha Bee.
Never mind, soon we shall have the household season to soothe away all these asperities of politics.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.
They are wearing straw hats in Alaska in an effort to advertise the territory as a winter resort. However, they will not want to throw away their fur caps before the first of June.

From the New York Herald.
The prolonged wait for the ice to break on the Longueville river has been discussed by a number of military men last night, and during the conversation one of the party recalled an incident that happened a few years ago when a prominent member of the National Guard was marooned on an island near Goldboro for more than a week.

HUMOR OF THE CAMPAIGN.

From the Detroit Free Press.
President Taft has a few governors himself.

From the Memphis News-Scimitar.
Never need it be said that Roosevelt did not fight in him.

From the Ohio State Journal.
The square deal sometimes appears to be considerably more deal than square.

From the Christian Science Monitor.
There can be nothing offensively partisan in the statement that Mr. Taft's silence is golden.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.
Mr. Taft should to put wise so that he, too, might become a contributing editor.

From the Newark Star.
The cocked hat, then Teddy's hat, and now Swede Annie's hat. Newspaper life seems to be just one hat after another.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star.
What Mr. La Follette doesn't have to say for publication would be particularly interesting just now.

Mr. Bryan Must Explain.
From the St. Paul Dispatch.
Col. Bryan says he does not consider the announcement of Col. Roosevelt as being of any importance to the Democratic party as "it will prevent me from continuing to make Democratic speeches." Does Mr. Bryan mean to insinuate that whether or not he makes speeches is of no importance to the Democratic party?

Lodge on the Political Fence.
From the New York Herald.
The rivalry between President Taft and Col. Roosevelt has driven Senator Lodge to the political fence and to the attitude of a mere onlooker. That is not a very courageous position, but it is the most comfortable one for a friend of both contestants.

Sign of Great Portent.
From the Cleveland Leader.
Perhaps President Taft believes in omens and perhaps he does not. Tennis is superseding golf in Washington.

May Need a Microscope.
From the Kansas City Times.
Baltimore is likely to need a microscope next June to see some of the "big four" and "big eight" that are being sent to the Democratic national convention.

Mad Newspapers Seared.
From the Hartford Post.
Of course he hasn't a ghost of a show. Roosevelt is as dead politically as the proverbial doornail, and all that, but he did make the newspapers opposed to him feel the heat of his telling why he is an impossible candidate.

WHY THESE HYSTERICS?

Every Country Almost Has Initiative and Referendum.

The hysterical gentlemen in various parts of the country who are denouncing Mr. Roosevelt's recent judicial decisions as "antislavery," and as indicating a condition which "make every loyal citizen of this country tremble" must be curiously ignorant of governmental conditions throughout the world. For, of course, it cannot be that they are simply unscrupulous.

If they will make inquiry they will learn that in every important nation except the United States the people are the immediate court of last resort. Only the courts have no authority to declare invalid any act of the people's representatives.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY.

Questions as to Retrocession Fully Answered.
Editor The Washington Herald:
Kindly answer the following inquiries through the columns of your paper. We people in Alexandria County need this information.
H. C. RAFFELL.

In creating the District of Columbia, was it necessary to have the consent of the original thirteen States?
Answer—The District of Columbia was created under the following clause in section 3 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States:

"To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings."

At this clause in the Constitution was adopted by the thirteen original States, the consent of these States was, in a way, the basis for the creation of the District of Columbia. But the location of the District of Columbia, for which the general authority was given in the clause referred to, was fixed by the act of Congress entitled "An act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the government of the United States," approved July 10, 1790, and amended by act approved March 3, 1800, amendatory to that act.

Under the first named act the President of the United States appointed three commissioners, who were authorized, under the direction of the President, to define and limit the territory for the permanent seat of government of the United States, and to purchase the necessary land on the eastern side of the Potomac River, within the District so defined, for the use of the United States, and provide suitable buildings thereon for the accommodation of Congress and the public offices. Under these powers the commissioners laid out the District of Columbia partly in Maryland and partly in Virginia.

In ending it back to Virginia, was it necessary to have the consent of the original thirteen States?
Answer—The portion derived from Virginia was ceded back to that State by proclamation of President Polk, dated September 3, 1846, to the people of the county and town of Alexandria had voted in favor of its reversion by a vote of 761 to 222.

What will be necessary to have the original boundary lines established south of the Potomac River?
Answer—There is a great difference of opinion among the statesmen of Alexandria County to the State of Virginia as to a Constitutional proceeding. This doubt could only be resolved by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is possible that the enactment of a new law ceding Alexandria County to the State of Virginia, in part of the District and the acceptance of that cession by Congress might effect retrocession, but that action might be contested on the ground that the Constitutional option in the matter was exhausted by the original cession.

MAROONED FOR A WEEK.

Moving of Ice Imprisons Him for Days on an Island.
From the Hartford Telegraph.

The prolonged wait for the ice to break on the Longueville river has been discussed by a number of military men last night, and during the conversation one of the party recalled an incident that happened a few years ago when a prominent member of the National Guard was marooned on an island near Goldboro for more than a week.

The man frequently went to the island to graze at the water, and it was this occasion did not expect the ice to break, the weather being extremely cold. But, as was the case this year, there had been a warm spell and during that time the ice had broken in the vicinity of the island. The man, who was a member of the National Guard, was marooned on an island near Goldboro for more than a week.

Incredible.
From the Norfolk Virginia-Post.
We are disposed to accept with more than a grain of salt the report that an appreciable percentage of the Federal officeholders in Texas are going to resign their jobs to join in the fight against Taft's re-election. Republican officeholders under the Federal government frequently die and are sometimes put out of their jobs; but voluntary resignations among them are only less rare than hen's teeth or white cows.

Just a Choice of Evils.
From the Dayton Ohio News.
"There is a kind of fool man that would rather be run over by an automobile in the streets than to concede he didn't have the right of way," says the New York Herald. But that water being run over by a coal cart, while arguing with a chauffeur.

Big Struts at Staunton.
From the Staunton (Va.) Dispatch-Turkey.
The president of the Valley Turnpike Company says: "The company is straining every resource to improve the road." This may be so, but we up here can't quite stand the strain.

"Sense It Has Six."
From the Ohio State Journal.
We wish our automobile could be induced to show a little more of the prevalent spontaneous enthusiasm when it comes to starting home on cold mornings after the paper's gone to press.

Mad Newspapers Seared.
From the Hartford Post.
Of course he hasn't a ghost of a show. Roosevelt is as dead politically as the proverbial doornail, and all that, but he did make the newspapers opposed to him feel the heat of his telling why he is an impossible candidate.

GOSSIP OF BRITISH COURT

For the first time in the history of the reigning house of England a ruler left his seat of government for any length of time without being accompanied by one of his ministers, when King George journeyed all the way out to India for his coronation. As a rule, whenever the King goes abroad, as even if he spends some time away from his capital, one member of the cabinet is in attendance upon him. The duty is supposed to fall upon each minister in turn, the period varying from a week to a fortnight, or even a month. In actual practice, however, no more than two or three of his advisers are called upon to be in attendance, the length of their service depending largely upon their personal popularity with the sovereign.

The late King Edward frequently dispensed with the services of a minister when abroad. Nor does the old custom of having a minister in attendance upon the King survive in the cabinet present at Windsor, when the court is in residence there, prevail any longer. In these days of telegraph, telephone, quick motor, and other methods of rapid communication, it is not regarded as necessary that a responsible head of a department should be obliged to leave his official duties for a lengthy period.

His knowledge of the King's affairs was so exacting Queen Victoria was in this respect, perhaps because she was a woman and had to rely more upon her advisers than a man. At any rate, she insisted upon a minister being in her retinue wherever she went. More than that, being a fine conversationalist herself, she made it a point that her ministers should be equally brilliant. Lord Salisbury, who was one of the Queen's great favorites, was often heard to complain about the post-prandial conversations at Balmoral. It generally is quite cold in the highlands of Scotland in the late autumn, but the Queen, a great lover of fresh air, would persist in having as many windows open as possible, and Lord Salisbury, who was very susceptible to colds, had to pass many an uncomfortable hour "making talk."

Accommodations and bodily comfort in those days at Balmoral or at Osborne House as well were very limited. At the first named place the minister's suite consisted of a small bedroom and a sitting room, lavishly decorated with tartan, which by the Queen's orders had been introduced in almost every room in the palace, but has now been done away with. There was also a room for the minister's valet. When King Edward ascended the throne one of the first things he did was to moderate Balmoral, and on his arrival he found that the duties of a minister in attendance are not arduous, except, of course, at such times when the political horizon is clouded, or during one of the many trials with which England almost continually had to wrestle in far-off countries. When things are normal—the minister has little to do but to enjoy himself. Nowadays every facility is accorded him to do so after his own fashion and desire. Breakfast is served in his private sitting room, unless he prefers to join the gentlemen of the court.

Lunch is also a meal at which it is in the opinion of the minister to appear or to stay away. When the King is out shooting or fishing—scarcely a day passes but what he is—his minister is left to his own devices. In the other of these short-lunches is taken in the open, and if the attending minister happens to be a sportsman he is naturally invited to join the royal party. The minister's presence at dinner, however, is insisted upon, and he is also required to be present in the drawing room after the meal. Queen Victoria went through all these duties with her ministers twice each day, in the morning and after dinner. King Edward, who was exceedingly methodical, yet full of sympathy, devoted only the first part of the morning to official business. Unless dispatches received during the day were especially urgent, they were never submitted or discussed until the following morning.

If anything, King George is still more methodical. He is an early riser, and is generally at work by 9 o'clock. He expects all documents to be ready for his signature at that hour. He is dispatched promptly. This done, the affairs of state are dismissed for the day, unless a matter of great urgency should transpire. During the day the minister is devoted to general conversation and to amusement.

Mr. Lloyd George, who has a great deal of humor, is persona grata on such occasions. Mr. Balfour enjoyed great popularity with the King, and his perfect performance upon the piano. Queen Alexandra is a cultured musician and herself a pianist of great ability, wherefore music always plays a notable part in the entertainment. During King Edward's reign, Lord Beaconsfield's wit, and especially his biting satire, amused Queen Victoria—kings and queens are very human, and Mr. Gladstone's deep theological knowledge also appealed to her—sometimes.

During the daytime the minister in attendance has things very much to his advantage. If a sportsman there is ample opportunity for gratifying his tastes. A royal carriage or motor is at his disposal and invitations from the gentry to the hunting and shooting parties are showered upon him for all manner of functions. Golf, archery, tennis, croquet, bowling, and other games may be indulged in, and there are charming walks among the hills and valleys of the surrounding park. In inclement weather there is the smoking room, a billiard room, a covered ballroom, and a well stocked library crisscrossed with interesting first editions and autographed volumes and scores of curios and mementoes of events in the royal family. All the leading magazines and daily domestic and foreign papers are to be found there and cigars and cigarettes are at his elbow.

All official dispatches are opened by the minister himself, who masters the contents and makes a report as may seem to him necessary before submitting them to the King. If the latter approves of the manner in which it is signed, he is at once signed and the replies are dictated to the corps of private secretaries. In the event of the King desiring information on any subject, it is the duty of the attending minister to obtain it.

King Edward kept somewhat late hours, but the motto of the court during the present reign is "early to bed" and the minister, who is called upon to be in attendance upon the King, must be perfectly sure of enjoying one thing, namely, a good night's rest.

One of the most uninteresting and enthusiastic of British hostesses is Lady Desborough, who celebrated her silver wedding week before last. It is under her hospitable canopy that the young girls in English society make their informal debut. And there never is any shortage of men at "dinner court balls," for the place, in times of auto-mobility, is nothing but a nice little spin "out of town," while during the summer months there always is the added attraction of an hour or two on the lawn with all the lovely reaches of the Thames for guests at Taylor court.

Lady Desborough, who is tall and dark and still very young, is the belle of Pantheaster, a lovely castellated Hertfordshire house, which belonged to her mother's brother, Lord Capel, to whose barony of Butler she is co-heiress with Lord Lucas and the Hon. Mrs. Herbert. Her ladyship likes to pose as a literary woman, and not without reason, she has been regarded as a literary woman. She has been regarded as a literary woman. She has been regarded as a literary woman.

PLANNING.
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STATESMEN, REAL AND NEAR.

By FRED C. KELLY.

In the last Bryan campaign, or one of the last, Sloan Gordon, the writer, had the job of official guest at meetings where Bryan spoke. That is, he was to rise up on his hind feet in the rear of the hall and ask two or three pointed questions, apparently in an effort to make a monkey out of Bryan, who, however, contrived to have answers right in stock. Bryan's quick retorts always made a hit with the crowd which never failed to laugh heartily at Gordon. Sometimes other people asked questions, too, but it was considered wise to have Gordon planted in reserve.

One night the Bryan party struck a city where Gordon had friends and he was invited out to dinner. The dinner was so enjoyable that he was a "little late getting to the Bryan meeting, and almost immediately on his arrival he up and asked question No. 1.

Bryan merely smiled and went on talking about something else without answering the question. Gordon tried then with question No. 2, and Bryan smiled again, but that was all. A moment later Gordon crossed his throat to put a third question, but a man at his left grabbed him by the shoulder and shook him. "Cut out that stuff," the man said. "Didn't you hear them questions answered half an hour ago?"

Chief Wilkie of the United States Secret Service, arose in the National Press Club recently and contributed this one to the Awful Experience fund:

It happened when Wilkie was doing "night police" for one of the Chicago papers. There were two combinations of reporters, each trying to beat the other bunch. One night in a roughish effort to get rid of the opposition for a while, Wilkie wrote a note to himself, saying: "If you will come out to my house about 12 o'clock to-night I will give you the full facts about that story."

When he reached his house for a name to sign to the note, and finally selected that of a friend who lived in worth of cab distance beyond the nearest street car line. He left the message lying carelessly on his desk at the Harrison street station and then walked up to the Dutchman's on the corner to await developments. When he returned to the police station the note was gone and also the opposition crowd of reporters. The desk sergeant said he had seen them rush out in a great hurry after calling a cab.

Next morning Wilkie's enjoyment of the joke was marred somewhat by the fact that the opposition papers each carried a big defalcation story that his sheet and the others represented by his bunch didn't have, and his city editor was awfully peevish. Brown & Co. had asked for the tale of whereabouts unknown with \$25,000. Wilkie wondered and wondered how the story was dug up, but he was a long while finding out.

One day some four months later he met the friend whose name he had signed to the joke note.

"Did a bunch of reporters call on you?"

"Yes, they did."

"What did they want?"

"They wanted to know about that story."

"What story?"

"The story about the defalcation."

"What defalcation?"

"The defalcation of \$25,000."

"What \$25,000?"

"The \$25,000 that I wrote a note to myself about."

"What note?"

"The note that I wrote to myself about 12 o'clock to-night I will give you the full facts about that story."

"What story?"

"The story about the defalcation."

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